

## **CLAIM AMENDMENTS AND HISTORY**

### **Claim 1 (withdrawn)**

1. A free-market environmental management system, comprising:
  - means for developing operational processes specifications for land use to conform to specified outputs;
  - means for validating that said operational processes produce outputs that meet said specifications;
  - means for auditing and certifying that said operational processes produce outputs that meet said specifications;
  - means for assessing financial cost of mitigating said operational processes to restore or protect corresponding ecosystem assets;
  - means for assigning said financial cost to remaining ecosystem assets at risk;
  - means for indemnifying failure to produce outputs that meet said specifications and to repair or to mitigate said failure; and
  - means for indemnifying failure to allocate sufficient primary coverage and to repair or to mitigate said failure.

### **Claim 2 (canceled)**

2. A method for managing ecosystem assets, comprising the steps of:
  - developing experimental processes;
  - deviating from said processes to meet conformance specifications to improve condition of ecosystem assets;
  - validating that said experimental processes were conducted according to said specifications;
  - auditing and certifying that said experimental processes were conducted according to said specifications;
  - assessing financial cost of said experimental processes to improve the condition of said ecosystem assets;
  - indemnifying failure to produce outputs that meet specifications posited by the experiment and repair or mitigate said failure;
  - indemnifying failure to allocate sufficient primary coverage to repair or to mitigate said failure;
  - developing natural process descriptions from data derived from said experimental mitigating process operations;
  - validating and certifying that said natural processes correspond with said process specifications;

assigning financial value to ecosystem assets for their ability to mitigate operational processes;

marketing financial value to mitigate operational processes with ecosystem process assets for their ability to mitigate operational processes;

indemnifying failure to produce outputs that meet said conformance specifications and mitigate said failure; and

indemnifying failure to allocate sufficient primary coverage to mitigate said failure.

**Claim 3 (canceled)**

3. A process for developing an ecosystem asset management method, comprising the steps of:

(a) developing an experimental process that deviates from an accepted standard process, wherein said experimental process meets conformance specifications for improving the condition of an ecosystem asset, wherein step (a) is performed by a first party;

(b) conducting said experimental process, wherein step (b) is performed by said first party;

(c) validating said experimental process was conducted according to said conformance specifications and achieved the expectations of said conformance specifications, wherein step (c) is performed by said first party;

(d) verifying and certifying said experimental process was conducted according to said conformance specifications and achieved the expectations of said conformance specifications, wherein step (d) is performed by a second party certifying entity;

(e) determining a financial cost of said experimental process for purposes of restoring said ecosystem asset;

- (f) determining a financial cost of repairing or mitigating loss resulting from failing to meet said conformance specifications;
- (g) using said financial costs of steps (e) and (f) to determine an indemnity cost for restoring said ecosystem asset versus repairing or mitigating loss resulting from failing to meet said conformance specifications;
- (h) indemnifying said second party certifying entity for costs incurred as a result of failing to insure that said first party allocated sufficient primary insurance coverage to indemnify said financial cost of step (f), wherein step (h) is performed by a third party insuring entity;
- (i) developing an ecosystem asset management method from data derived from said experimental process;
- (j) validating that said ecosystem asset management method produces results that correspond to said conformance specifications;
- (k) verifying and certifying step (j), wherein step (k) is performed by said second party certifying entity;
- (l) assigning financial value to said ecosystem asset management method;
- (m) marketing said ecosystem asset management method;
- (n) indemnifying said first party for repair or mitigation costs incurred as a result of said ecosystem asset management method failing to meet said conformance specifications, wherein step (n) is performed by said third party insuring entity;

- (o) indemnifying said second party certifying entity for costs incurred as a result of failing to insure that said first party allocated sufficient primary insurance coverage to indemnify said repair or mitigation costs of step (n), wherein step (o) is performed by said third party insuring entity; and
- (p) indemnifying said second party certifying entity for costs incurred as a result of failing to properly validate steps (c) and (j), wherein step (p) is performed by said third party insuring entity.

**Claim 4 (new)**

4. A method for developing a natural process asset management method as a risk-reduction service, means to produce a performing asset or assets capable of offsetting the destructive use of an asset or assets performing a similar service elsewhere, a source of certified data by which to quantify risk, or a method to be licensed by which to market a product or service, certified and warranted to meet performance specifications to a prospective second party: a customer or customers in the free market, the steps comprising of:

- (a) developing an experimental process for improving the condition of a natural process asset that deviates from an accepted standard process, meeting conformance specifications to deliver performance expectations, performed by a first party, the property owner or his agents;
- (b) contracting for verification of the experiment and preparation of data collection performed the first party with one or more persons constituting a third party, a certifying entity;
- (c) contracting for indemnity covering consequential damages due to said experiment only, not including hazards of pre-existing conditions, performed by the first party with a fourth party: one or more persons constituting the insurance function;
- (d) indemnifying said third party certifying entity for risk of failing to perform step (b) performed by a party of the insurance function;

- (e) conducting said experimental process performed by said property owner;
- (f) validating accuracy of data from said experimental process performed by said property owner;
- (g) validating that said experimental process was conducted according to said conformance specifications performed by said property owner;
- (h) characterizing the performance of the asset with a mathematical model or other quantitative process description thus completing a performance specification with known tolerances or limits, performed by said property owner;
- (i) verifying and certifying said data were properly validated, said experimental process was conducted according to said conformance specifications, that said quantitative process description is accurate, and that said experimental process achieved the expectations of said performance specifications within specified tolerances, performed by said certifying function;
- (j) determining a financial cost of said experimental process for restoring said natural process asset, performed by said property owner;
- (k) estimating extent and probability of damage to man-made assets and/or natural process assets resulting from a loss of said natural process assets, performed by said insurance function;
- (l) using said financial costs of steps (j) and (k) to re-evaluate existing indemnities resulting from failure to restore said natural process asset successfully, performed by said insurance function;
- (m) defining a description of the functional boundary of each process unit, performed by said property owner;
- (n) combining functional units into a scale and/or configuration sufficient to constitute an economically viable product or service, performed by said property owner or owners.